MARVEL
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LGY#170
DONNY CATES • RYAN STEGMAN • JP MAYER • FRANK MARTIN
VENOM

DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK STUMBLED UPON AN AGGRESSIVE ALIEN ORGANISM, CALLED THE SYMBIOTE, DURING ONE OF THE LOWEST POINTS OF HIS LIFE. SHARING A SIMILAR NEED FOR JUSTICE IN THE FORM OF VENGEANCE, THE SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH EDDIE AND THEIR UNION GRANTED HIM POWERS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF SPIDER-MAN, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF OTHER UNIQUE ABILITIES. TOGETHER, THEY NOW FIGHT CRIME AS THE WICKED WEB-SLINGER CALLED

VENOM

TO STOP A MASSIVE SYMBIOTE DRAGON FROM DESTROYING MANHATTAN, VENOM JOINED FORCES WITH SPIDER-MAN, A.K.A. MILES MORALES. BUT IN THE MIDST OF THEIR BATTLE WITH THE CREATURE, THEY CAME FACE-TO-FACE WITH ***KNULL***, THE CREATOR AND GOD OF THE SYMBIOTES!

FROM WITHIN THE BELLY OF THE SYMBIOTIC BEAST, KNULL TOOK CONTROL OF VENOM AND ATTEMPTED TO SEVER ITS CONNECTION TO BROCK. SPIDER-MAN WAS ABLE TO INTERVENE, AND NOW HE AND EDDIE MUST FIND A WAY TO SAVE SPIDER-MAN, VENOM, AND THE PLANET BEFORE THE GOD-HOST CAN DESTROY THEM ALL...

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VENOM!
EDDIE!
WILL ONE OF YOU LUNATICS PLEASE--
--WAKE UP!
KRAK
KRAK
WELCOME BACK, EDDIE.

DON'T BE AFRAID.
W-WHAT THE HELL?
YEAH! IT WAS THIS OR THE BELLY OF A SYMBIOTE DRAGON HEADING INTO SPACE!
I MADE A CALL!
EDDIE. LISTEN TO ME.
NOT NOW!
WHAT? NO! NOW!

MAKE A WEB PARACHUTE!
A WHAT?
EDDIE!
PARACHUTE! MADE OF WEBS! IT'S A THING SPIDER-MAN CAN--
I CAN'T DO THAT! DO A VENOM THING!
EDDIE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO--
LISTEN TO ME!
AGH!
GRAB THE SPIDER AND GO LIMP. DO IT NOW.
WHAT IS HAPPENING?! WHY DO YOU SOUND SO DIF--
WE WILL EXPLAIN LATER.
JUST TRUST US.

WE'VE GOT YOU.

YOU CAN FLY?!
NEWS TO US, TOO.

THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, KID. KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN.
AH, WAIT!

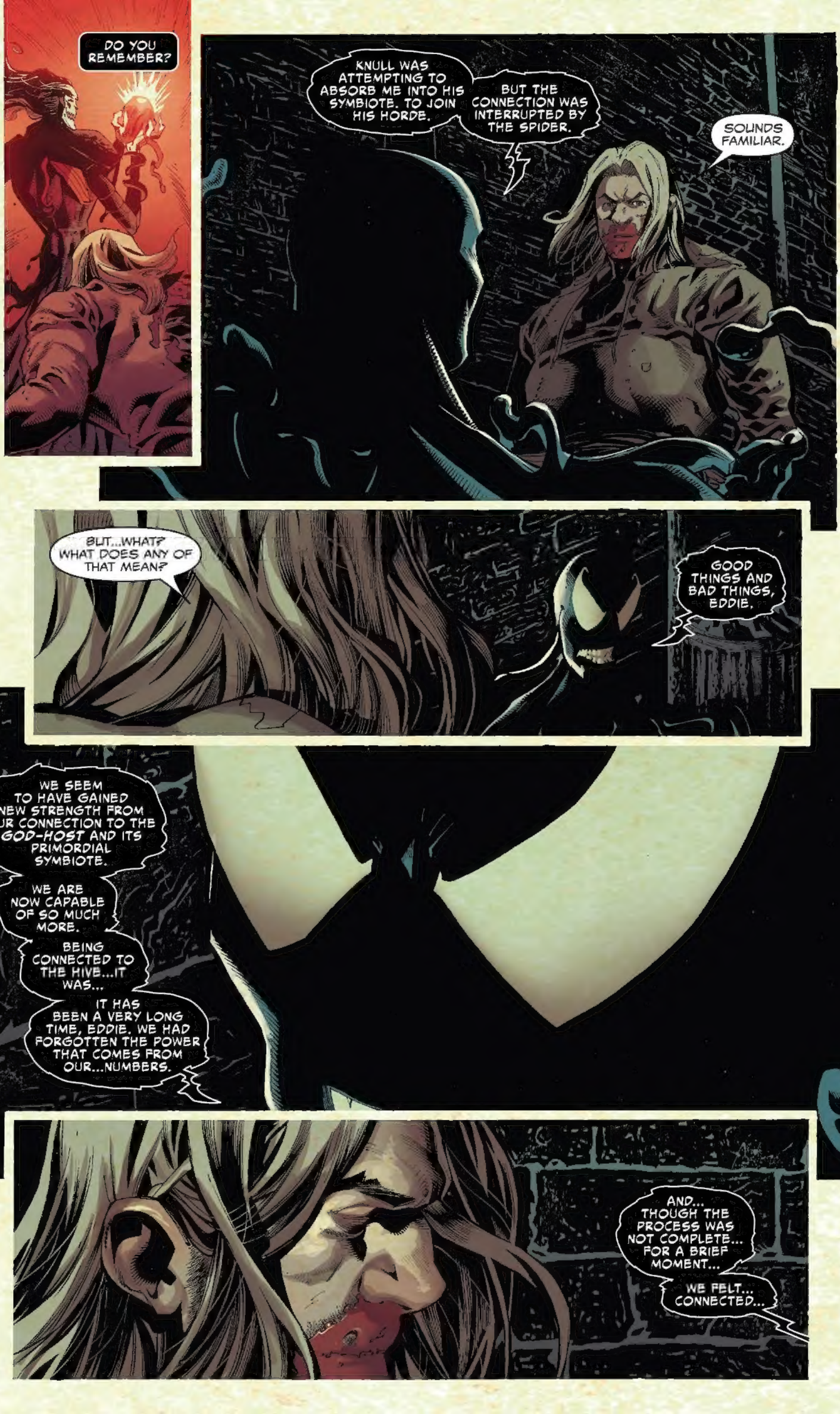
HEY! NO! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

WAS THE THING ABOUT KEEPING MY HEAD DOWN LITERAL ABOUT LANDING ON THE BUILDING, OR, LIKE, A METAPHORICAL "KEEP MY HEAD DOWN" BECAUSE THAT DRAGON THING IS COMING BACK?!
HEY!

THWIP!

RIGHT. OKAY. YEAH. YEAH, NO, YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'VE GOT THIS ONE.
I HATE SYMBIOTE STUFF.

OKAY, THE KID IS GONE. C-CAN YOU PUT US DOWN?
OF COURSE, EDDIE.
OKAY...GOD, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START...THIS IS... IT'S TOO MUCH...
YOUR HEART IS BEATING VERY FAST. YOU'RE SCARED. DO YOU WANT ME TO ALTER THE CHEMICALS IN YOUR BODY TO CALM YOU?
W-WHAT? NO! YOU CAN DO THAT?
WE CAN DO MANY THINGS NOW.
YEAH, I NOTICED. SINCE WHEN DO YOU HAVE WINGS?
YOU'RE FREAKING ME OUT.
SINCE WHEN DO WE HAVE WINGS, EDDIE.
NOT OUR INTENT. LET US EXPLAIN.
KNULL TRIED TO BURN MY CONNECTION TO THE LIGHT AWAY.
MY CONNECTION TO YOU.


DO YOU REMEMBER?
KNULL WAS ATTEMPTING TO ABSORB ME INTO HIS SYMBIOTE. TO JOIN HIS HORDE.
BUT THE CONNECTION WAS INTERRUPTED BY THE SPIDER.
SOUNDS FAMILIAR.
BUT...WHAT? WHAT DOES ANY OF THAT MEAN?
GOOD THINGS AND BAD THINGS, EDDIE.
WE SEEM TO HAVE GAINED NEW STRENGTH FROM OUR CONNECTION TO THE GOD-HOST AND ITS PRIMORDIAL SYMBIOTE.
WE ARE NOW CAPABLE OF SO MUCH MORE.
BEING CONNECTED TO THE HIVE...IT WAS...
IT HAS BEEN A VERY LONG TIME, EDDIE. WE HAD FORGOTTEN THE POWER THAT COMES FROM OUR...NUMBERS.
AND... THOUGH THE PROCESS WAS NOT COMPLETE... FOR A BRIEF MOMENT...
WE FELT... CONNECTED...

...WE WERE NOT--
ALONE.
...YEAH.
SO WHAT'S THE BAD NEWS?
THE ABYSS, EDDIE. THE VOID. KNULL.
HE STARES BACK.
AS LONG AS WE ARE TOGETHER, KNULL WILL BE ABLE TO FIND US.
TO... INFECT US.
HE IS COMING BACK, EDDIE.
AND WE CANNOT HIDE FROM HIM.

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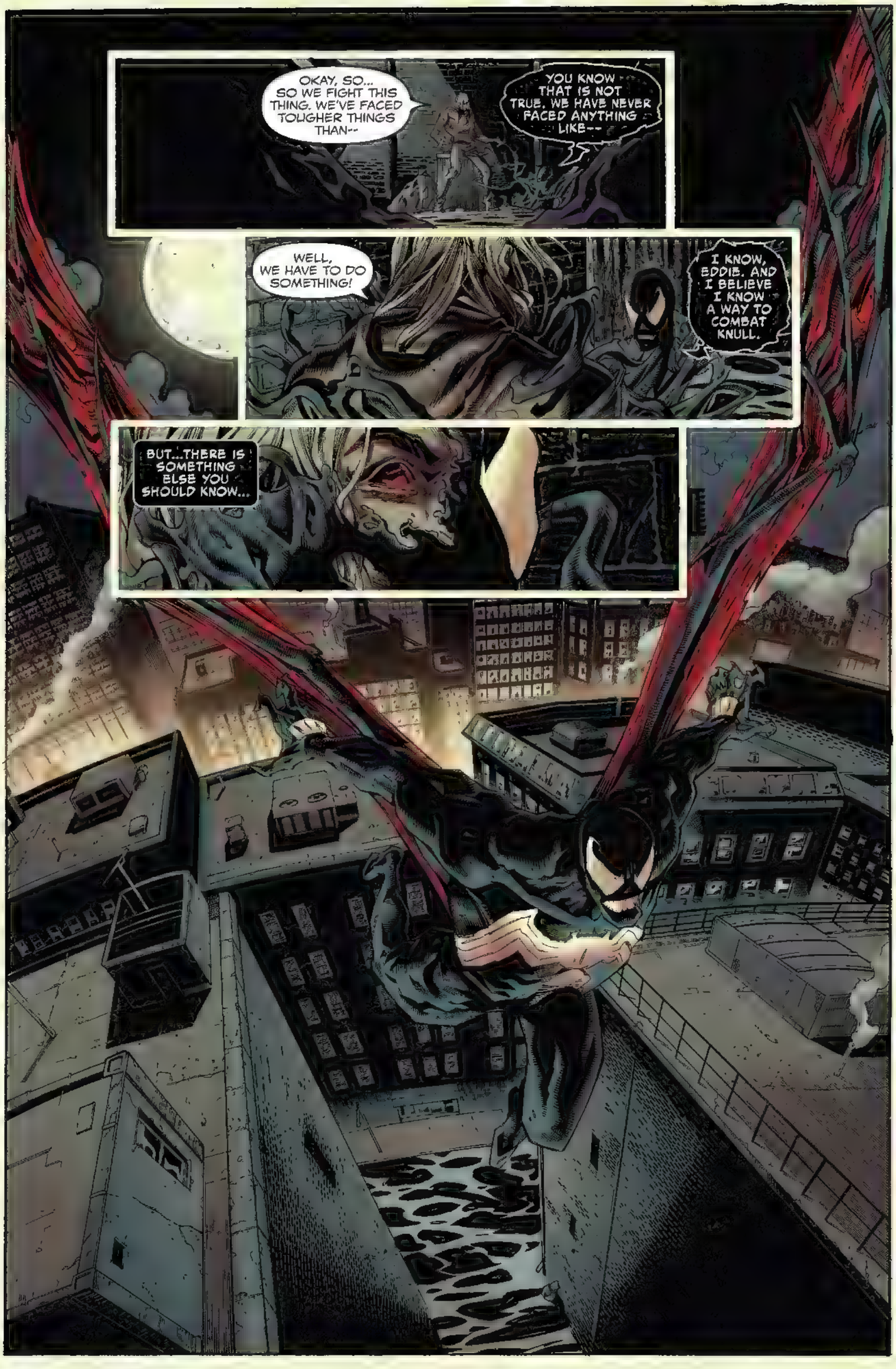
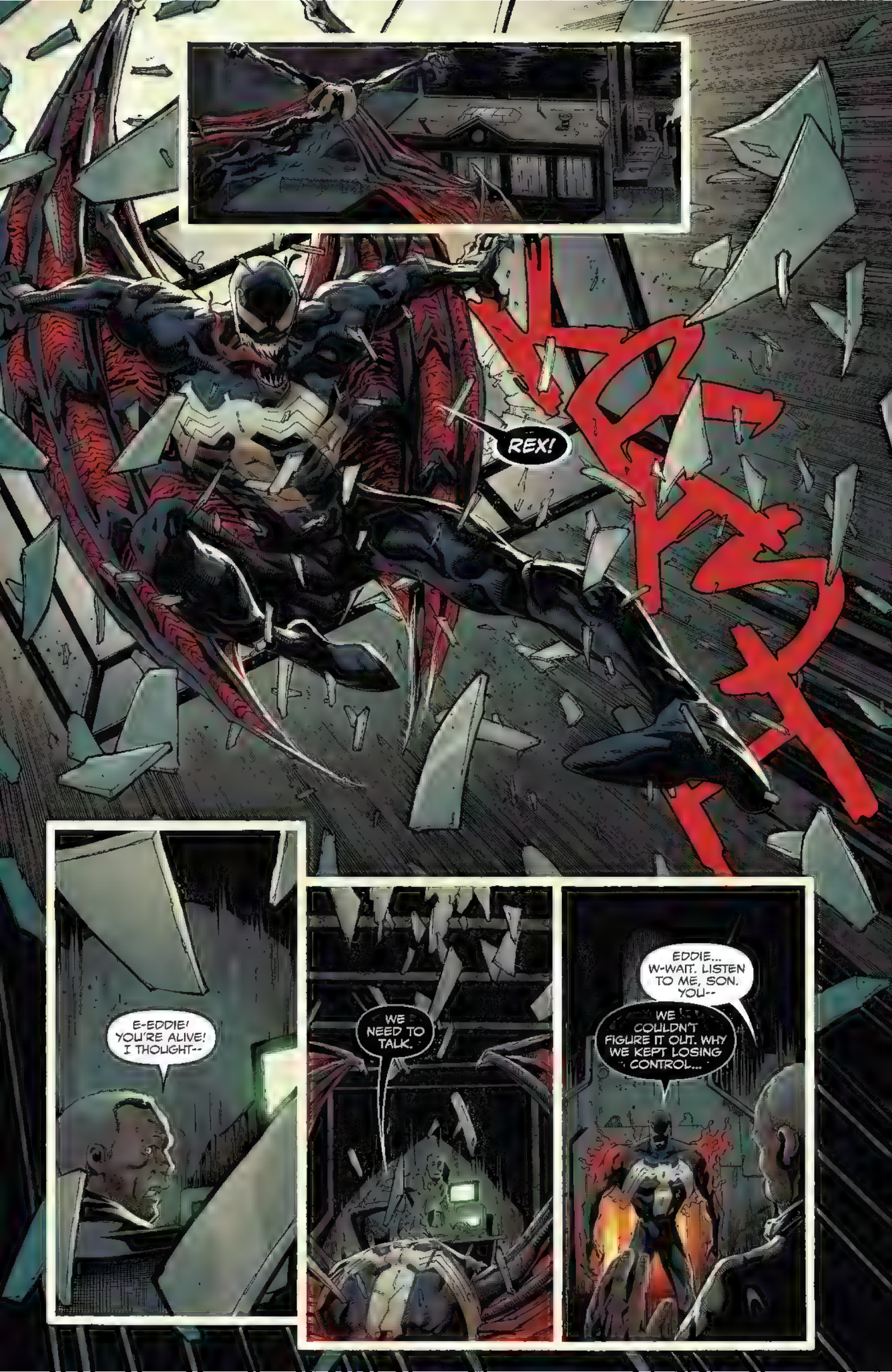

OKAY, SO... SO WE FIGHT THIS THING. WE'VE FACED TOUGHER THINGS THAN--
YOU KNOW THAT IS NOT TRUE. WE HAVE NEVER FACED ANYTHING LIKE--
WELL, WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!
I KNOW, EDDIE. AND I BELIEVE I KNOW A WAY TO COMBAT KNULL.
BUT...THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE YOU SHOULD KNOW...


REX!
E-EDDIE! YOU'RE ALIVE! I THOUGHT--
WE NEED TO TALK.
EDDIE... W-WAIT. LISTEN TO ME, SON. YOU--
WE COULDN'T FIGURE IT OUT. WHY WE KEPT LOSING CONTROL...

"THE VOICES...THE NIGHTMARES...

"MY OTHER WAS JUST REACTING INSTINCTIVELY. LIKE AN ANIMAL...

"...BARING ITS TEETH TO *ITS* ALPHA.

"EVERY TIME WE LOST CONTROL AND TURNED INTO THAT...THING...

"SHOWING ITS BELLY TO THE SAME *MONSTER* S.H.I.E.L.D. CUT UP AND USED TO CREATE THOSE SOLDIERS.

"WE THOUGHT WE WERE GOING *INSANE*...

"BUT WE KNOW BETTER NOW.

"THE PRIMORDIAL SYMBIOTE THAT CARRIED KNULL'S DARKNESS ACROSS THE STARS...

"...THE *GRENDEL*."

THE ALLEY. THE WAREHOUSE. THE ROOFTOP. MY OTHER WAS REACTING TO SOMETHING ELSE. PROTECTING ME.

WE SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT.

IT WAS NEVER US.

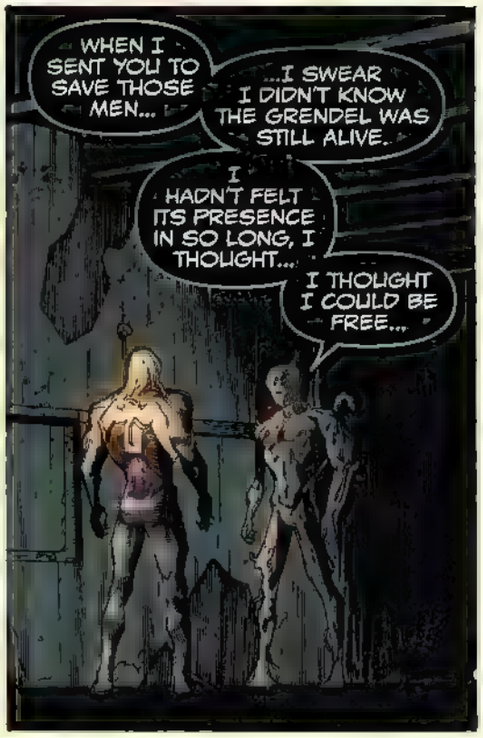
SPLICH
IT WAS YOU.
NOW...
...SHOW US YOUR TEETH.
EDDIE...

...I'M SO SORRY.

YOU WERE IN THE ALLEY WHEN WE LOST CONTROL. IN THE WAREHOUSE WHEN WE ALMOST KILLED YOU.
YOU'RE A PART OF KNULL'S GRENDEL SYMBIOTE.
TELL US THE TRUTH...

...WAS THERE EVER REALLY A REX STRICKLAND?
YES.
HE WAS MY HOST IN VIETNAM. HE WAS A GOOD MAN AND HE DIED OUT THERE AND THEN I...
...I BECAME HIM. I AM HIM.
I HAVE BEEN FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

I DIDN'T WANT TO GO BACK TO KNULL.
S.H.I.E.L.D. WAS GOING TO LOCK US AWAY AND I--I HAD FOUND SOMETHING IN REX...IN HUMANITY... THAT I NEVER KNEW...
I JUST...I COULDN'T GO BACK, SON. I COULDN'T GO BACK TO THE HIVE. TO KNULL.


WHEN I SENT YOU TO SAVE THOSE MEN...
...I SWEAR I DIDN'T KNOW THE GRENDEL WAS STILL ALIVE.
I HADN'T FELT ITS PRESENCE IN SO LONG, I THOUGHT...
I THOUGHT I COULD BE FREE...

KNULL BUILT US TO HUNT THE LIGHT...
BUT THE LIGHT... IT'S--
IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
YES.

WAIT-- DID YOU...HOW DID YOU HEAR THAT?
WE CAN DO MANY NEW THINGS, EDDIE.

MY GOD... YOU'VE MADE CONTACT WITH KNULL, HAVEN'T YOU?
YES, HE ATTEMPTED TO ABSORB US INTO HIS--
CAN YOU TWO PLEASE STOP TALKING THROUGH ME?!
REX, KNULL SAID SOMETHING TO US WHEN WE FACED HIM...
AND WHEN THIS GRENDEL IS COMPLETE...IT WILL COME FOR ME. IT WILL FREE ME FROM MY CAGE
HE MEANS YOU, DOESN'T HE?
HE TOOK THE OTHER FOUR PIECES OF HIS GRENDEL OFF THOSE SOLDIERS...AND NOW HE'S OUT THERE HUNTING FOR THE LAST PIECE.
REX... IF HE GETS YOU...
...THEN IT'S OVER.
NO.
THERE IS ANOTHER WAY.

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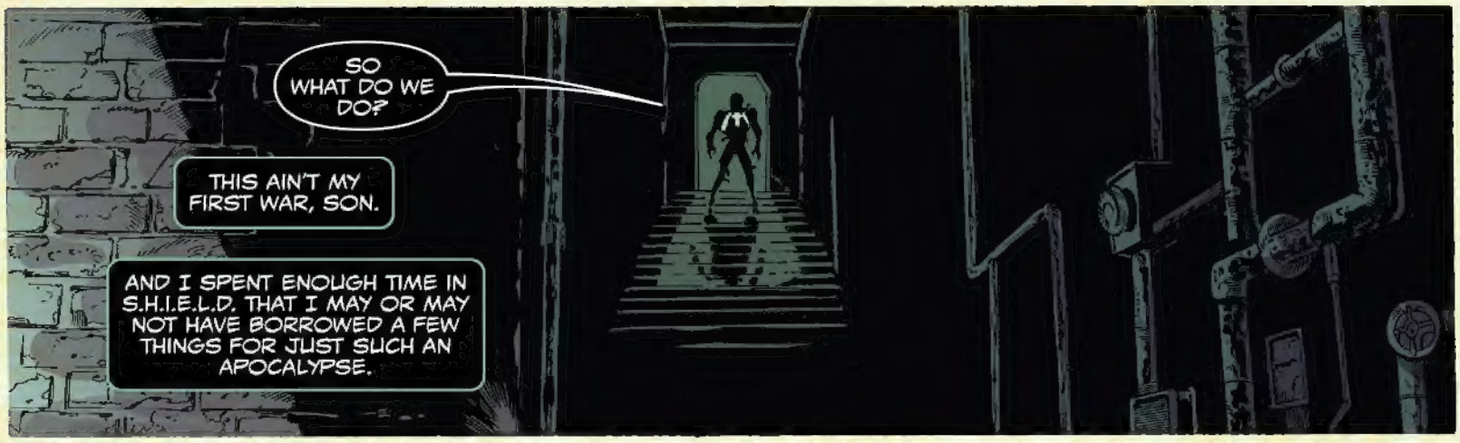
JOIN US.
W-WHAT?
KNULL WANTED TO ABSORB US, AND AS A RESULT, HE MADE US STRONGER.
HE UNLOCKED A FRACTION OF WHAT WE CAN BECOME...
...BUT WE ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP HIM.
I CAN'T HELP YOU, I'M--
NO. YOU ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH EITHER.
BUT REMEMBER WHAT WE ARE, REX.
THIS IS WHAT MAKES OUR SPECIES GREAT.
WE ARE BETTER WHEN WE ARE NOT ALONE.
WE ARE POWERFUL.
WE ARE STRONG.
WE... ARE...

RAAAGGHH!
WHUMP
...AT WAR.

YOU OKAY, BROCK?
YEAH, I'M... WAIT... REX?
YEAH, I'M HERE. DON'T WORRY, YOUR FRIEND IS IN HERE TOO. THEY'RE JUST LETTING ME DRIVE.

IF WE'RE GONNA DO THIS, WE NEED TO GET READY.
THE GRENDEL IS TOUGH, BUT IT'S NOT INVINCIBLE. IF WE CAN CUT IT OFF FROM KNULL WE MIGHT HAVE A SHOT.
NOW, I'VE ONLY EVER SEEN ONE THING PUT A DENT IN KNULL'S SYMBIOTE LONG ENOUGH TO SEVER THEIR CONNECTION...

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
THE LIGHT.
THAT'S RIGHT. AND AS STRONG AS WE ARE NOW, AIN'T NONE OF US THOR.


SO WHAT DO WE DO?
THIS AIN'T MY FIRST WAR, SON.
AND I SPENT ENOUGH TIME IN S.H.I.E.L.D. THAT I MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BORROWED A FEW THINGS FOR JUST SUCH AN APOCALYPSE.

WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO THROW LIGHTNING...

...BUT WE CAN DAMN SURE BRING THE THUNDER.
AMMO
TO BE CONTINUED...

VENOM

#6!

HEY, VENOMANIACS! THE FIRST TWO ISSUES ARE ON THE SHELVES NOW! GO GRAB #1 AND #2 AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THE WHOLE STORY SO FAR BY WRITING TO US AT SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM! BE SURE TO MARK YOUR LETTERS "OKAY TO PRINT"!

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